

Medicaid Dental Program Benefits

Dental Task Force Recommendations Streamline Medicaid Dental Program

Medicaid pays for routine dental care for children under 21 years of age with full Medicaid eligibility through the EPSDT Program when provided by licensed dentists who are enrolled as Medicaid dental providers. Adults 21 years of age and older are not eligible for dental coverage through Medicaid.



Routine procedures involving the teeth covered by Medicaid include:

- A dental checkup every six months
- A dental cleaning every six months
- X-rays
- Fillings
- Extractions
- Root Canals
- Stainless Steel Crowns

Certain services require prior authorization by written request to Medicaid. Requests should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the anticipated date of the procedure. These procedures include:

- Non-surgical periodontal treatment, e.g. periodontal scaling and/or root planning
- Outpatient or inpatient hospitalization coverage and dental services performed in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) for medically necessary dental procedures on children.
- Limited outpatient and inpatient hospitalization coverage for adults with dental problems exacerbating medical conditions. The dental procedures themselves are not covered, only facility and anesthesia services.
- Orthodontic services considered medically necessary for children with cleft lip/palate and/or other severe facial and cranial abnormalities, and who are served through Children's Rehabilitation Services.

Targeted Case Management services are available for patients who need additional education or support in the areas of keeping appointments, compliance with treatment protocol, appropriate behavior in the office and other topics as needed.

Alabama Medicaid does NOT cover the following services:

- Routine orthodontic care, e.g. braces
- Routine partials, dentures or bridgework
- Gold caps or crowns
- Periodontal or gum surgery

Dental benefits are not provided for any pregnant female under the age of 21 whose coverage is based solely on SOBRA eligibility.

If you have questions concerning a specific recipient's Medicaid dental coverage, coverage can be verified through the EDS Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) at 1-800-727-7848 or by contacting the Alabama Medicaid Dental Program at 334-242-5997.

